

The Gateway Chronicle

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey / New York



Your Gateway to Volunteers-In-Parks News Winter 2014



Jamaica Bay Restoration Corps volunteers improve trails at Dead Horse Bay

Volunteering In New York: A Snapshot

New York State did not fare well in a survey of volunteerism and civic engagement nationwide. A fact sheet entitled *Volunteering and Civic Life In America* found that 20.7% of New York State residents volunteered in 2011, ranking New York 50th among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

But New York puts up decent numbers. New York State had 3.22 million volunteers, who gave 413.2 million hours of service, equating to 26.6 hours per New York resident. Volunteers contributed \$9 billion worth of service. New York City in 2011 had 2,787,311 volunteers giving 360,419,545 hours of service that equated to 23.4 hours per resident. The most active volunteers by age group are those from 35 – 54. The least active are from the ages of 20 – 24.

Volunteering at Gateway: A Snapshot

Gateway National Recreation Area enjoys substantial support from volunteers who donate valuable time and service to their park. Fiscal Year 2013 by the Numbers:

5th

• Gateway's rank in NPS volunteer hours nationally

7,210

• Total Gateway volunteers

100,072

• Service hours contributed to Gateway

Join the Conversation



Facebook.com/GatewayNPS
@GatewayNPS
Nps.gov/gate



Hurricane Sandy brought invaluable volunteers in to help the park recover. However, the amount of volunteer hours is impressive because the park was closed in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and during the government shutdown.

“Thank You!” to the thousands of volunteers that donated their time in record numbers to help Gateway as we recover from Hurricane Sandy stronger than ever.

Learn about Volunteering

Scan the QR Code





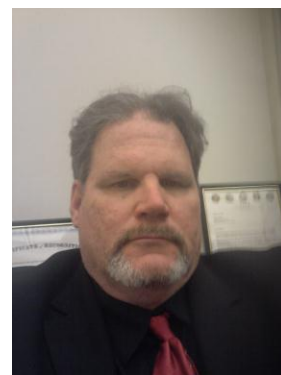
Campground host Peter Clark leading a program at Sandy Hook

Sandy Hook Sponsors First Gateway Campground Host

Would you live in a tent for four months at Sandy Hook? For Peter Clark, Gateway's first volunteer campground host, it sounded like fun. Peter lived in the campground at Sandy Hook, assisting campers with their needs and insuring visitor safety. He helped novice campers learn how to set up their tents and start safe fires. He also explained park regulations to visitors and contacted Dispatch when needed. Peter added to his duties as campground host by leading sunset lighthouse tours on Thursday nights for campers, which were full almost every week. Peter volunteered more than 500 hours while working at Sandy Hook, a standard of his commitment and dedication for which the park is grateful. Do you have what it takes to live in a tent at the park? If interested in becoming a Campground host at Sandy Hook or other locations at Gateway, email Keith White, Volunteer Coordinator, Gateway National Recreation Area at keith.white@nps.gov.

A Message from the Volunteer Coordinator

It has been my pleasure to meeting and or working with each volunteer this year. The last 12 months has been beset with many challenges such as Super Storm Sandy, the sequester and the government shutdown. On the other hand let us not forget the successes. With the help and efforts of the volunteers, we were able to open Sandy Hook and Jacob Riis Park on time for the summer. As I look to the future, I anticipate a continuation of successes as well as the occasional challenges facing Gateway Volunteers-In-Parks Program, but together we will celebrate the successes and overcome the challenges. Thank you all for your efforts and dedication and I hope to see you next year.



Published by Sam Adels
Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Keith White at Keith_White@nps.gov



Director Jarvis with members of the Student Conservation Association. They have utilized social media effectively

Technology Altered Charitable and Volunteering Industries in 2013

Studies show that volunteers have been quick to use social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter to organize volunteer efforts. We have witnessed a great number of tragedies this past year, from Hurricane Sandy here at home, wildfires in Colorado, and the typhoon in the Philippines abroad. Emerging technologies have stepped in to allow people to organize relief efforts and distribute aid faster and more efficiently. Citizens can now use mobile apps to donate money in an instant. The trick now is getting charities on board with the newest technologies.

Gateway's Website Usage Statistics

We recently received feedback from the Northeast Region web coordinators about how visitors use Gateway's website. Gateway's volunteer page ranked 73 out of the 100 most visited pages. We hope to get the volunteer page into the list of the top 20 pages visited. We will work to improve our page nonstop. Please continue to visit to learn more about the volunteer program, including current volunteer opportunities throughout Gateway.